

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 3 and 6 through 7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stevenson. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to for dependence upon a rejected base claim but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of base and intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly and succinctly set forth the elements of Applicant's inventive combination. In particular, claim 1 is amended to more clearly set forth the playhouse structure of Applicant's base housing. Claim 1 is further amended to more clearly set forth the multi-celled interior structure of Applicant's base housing which distinguish it from the base structure of Stevenson. Similarly, claim 6 has been amended to more clearly distinguish Applicant's inventive structure and more clearly distinguish it from the prior art, particularly Stevenson, and to more succinctly claim Applicant's invention. More specifically, claim 6 has been amended to more specifically and clearly set forth the structure of the one or more open sided rooms within Applicant's housing. A new claim 8 has been added and original claims 2 through 5 and 7 to continue to be presented as originally filed.

US Patent 4,507,087 issued to Stevenson sets forth a CLOSED FINGER PAINTING DEVICE in which a rigid base member is coupled to a number of closed, clear, flexible bags such that the bags may be folded to overlie a portion of the base member. The bags are sealed to

enclose a quantity of colorful transparent fluids. The base member further includes a “picture frame” like member hinged to the base member and pivotable between an extended position and a closed position overlying the one or more liquid filled bags upon the base. Of importance with respect to the present invention, is the complete absence in the picture frame-like member (top 16) of any cellular or room divided structure. On the contrary, top 16 is shown in Stevenson to be formed of a substantially planar member defining a “viewing window” in its interior. Top 16 in the Stevenson device does not receive or support any toy items and, in fact, lacks the capacity to do so. Top 16 simply forms a picture frame-like member which may be folded upon the partially filled liquid bags overlying the base.

In view of the foregoing remarks and descriptions of Stevenson, it is believed that the base housing structure of the present invention playhouse (base housing 11) is not found anywhere in Stevenson as contended by the Examiner. In addition, the operative combination playhouse and doll carrying case provided by Applicants structure simulates a beachfront location in which the plastic bags provides a simulated waterfront for the play environment. Conceding Examiners suggestion that one or more of the liquid filled bags in Stevenson may be filled with liquids which provide a water-like appearance, one nonetheless fails in configuring Stevenson in any play mode to provide the simulation of a “beach house” environment or other doll house or toy playhouse at the beach front as provided by Applicants structure.

It is believed therefore that Applicants claims 1 and 6 as amended herein clearly distinguish Applicants claimed invention from the prior art. It is further believed that Applicants

originally presented claims 2 through 5 and 7 also set forth patentable subject matter in their dependence upon amended claims 1 and 6. It is further believed that new claim 18 is also allowable in its dependence from amended claim 16.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing remarks and claim amendments, it is respectfully requested that Examiner reconsider the rejections set forth in present Office Action and that Applicants claims be allowed and the present application be passed to issue.